SAN FAPPROVEDFOCKElease 2004/10/13: CIA-RDP88-013508000200300081-2: CEOR Herrin in EXAMINER
E - 204,749

Harrera Row

EXAMINER
E = 204,749
EXAMINER & CHRONICLE
S = 640,004
MUL 3 0 1972

CIA4.01 Drug Traffic

southeast asia

## 'The Politics of Heroin'

T WAS the harvest land for raw opium, the infamous "golden triangle." In the corner embracing northeastern Burma, northern Thailand and northern Laos about 1000 tons of raw opium was produced, about 70 percent of the world's supply.

From there it eventually found its way to the American market, but that source of heroin, according to Administration officials, had been turned off.

"We think all the countries are cooperating with us and we are quite satisfied with that cooperation," said Secretary of State William P. Rogers to a Senate subcommittee last May.

#### On the Defensive

How much cooperation, however, was subject to dispute, with the Central Intelligence Agency and eventually the Administration on the defensive last week.

Part of the official worry originated with the soon-to-be-published book by Alfred W. McCoy a 26-year-old Yale graduate student who spent 18 months investigating narcotics operations in Indochina.

In "The Politics of Heroin in Southeast Asia," McCoy charged that the CIA knew of the narcotics trade but failed to take action and that both CIA and State Department officials had provided political and military support for America's Indochinese allies actively engaged in drug traffic, had covered up evidence of such involvement and had been

actively involved themselves in the trade.

The CIA launched a big effort to refute the charges, calling them unwarranted, unproven and fallacious, and managed to persuade the publishers of the expose, Harper & Row, to permit the CIA 'to review the manuscript prior to publication.

The book has been based on more than 250 interviewers, some of them, McCoy said, with past and present officials of the CIA.

He said that top-level South Vietnamese officials,

# The CIA was accused of drug trafficking

including President Nguyen Van Thieu and Premier Tran Van Khiem, were involved.

The CIA began an unusual public defense by sending two letters for publication to the Washington Post, which had printed some of McCoy's allegations.

### The Appreach

The CIA began its approach to Harper & Row in learning of McCoy's appearance before a Senate subcommittee.

Harper & Row decided that although "we don't have any doubts about the book at all... as one of the oldest publishing houses in America, Harper & Row has an obligation to itself and what it stands for."

A Harper & Row spokesman added that if McCoy did not agree to the CIA review, it would not publish the book.

### Cabinet Report

Then came a Cabinet level report, released last Sunday. Contrary to administration assurances of success in halting drug traffic, it said, there was "no prospect" of slowing the traffic "under any conditions that can realistically be projected."

The report was prepared by officials of the CIA, State Department and Defense Department and noted that "the most basic problem and that one that unfortunately appears least likely of any early solution, is the corruption, collusion and indifference at some places in some governments, particularly Thailand and South Vietnam . . ."

The report also stated that "it should surely be possible to convey to the right Thai or Vietnamese officials the mood of the Congress and the Administration on the subject of drugs."

To which, Lester L. Welff, a New York Democratic critic of government's handling of Southeast Asia drug traffic, said, "We think the trade has got so much protection in high places in Thailand that the Administration is afraid they'll tell up to take our air bases out if we put too much pressure on them."